

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A reading apparatus obtains a line of image data stored on a surface, the reading apparatus having a radiation source (12) for directing a line of stimulating radiation onto a stimuable image carrier on the surface, generating a
5 line of image-bearing radiation. A sensing head (22) having a plurality of channels (66) obtains image data from the line of image-bearing radiation, each channel (66) sensing a segment (32) of the line of image-bearing radiation. Each channel (66) has inverting optics for inverting the segment (32) of the line of image-bearing radiation to form an inverted line segment image (44) and a sensor
10 (29) for providing image data for the inverted line segment image (44). An image processor (30) accepts image data from sensing head channels (66) and forms a line of image data according to the line of image-bearing radiation.